Mr. Leonard Downie, Jr.
Executive Editor
The Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, DC 20071

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702
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Dear Mr. Downie,

"We often write news stories about books when they are newsworthy," Joann Byrd today quotes you as saying. I hope you will consider doing that with my current Case Open (Carroll & Graf/Richard Gallen) not as a JFK assassination book but as an expose of the crudest and most brazen of the exploitations and commercializations of that great tragedy, the knowingly mistitled Case Closed, by Gerald Posner (Random House) and of the major media abdication of all responsibility in extolling it.

With the Post, thanks to Jeffrey Frank, a notable exception. (Although in printing Posner's dishonest comment it failed to note for its readers that he lied - but then he has trouble telling the truth even by accident.)

(Please excuse my typing. I'm 81 now and in impaired health. My typing cannot be any better.)

What was published is but a fraction of what I wrote and the haste in publication is, I regret, only too obvious. But what I wrote and what is published stacks. I refer to Posner as a plagiarist, using his own publisher's definition of it, as a shyster, same definition, and as a deliberate liar, among other things. I have yet to hear a word from Posner, from Random House or from any lawyer speaking for either.

With the exception of George Lardner, who informed Frank and who makes the Post an exception in its reporting of assassination information news, almost nobody at all did any checking on that most dishonest of books while all the media vied in making a supersensation of all its lies, thus misleading and misinforming the people.

It was even considered for the Pulitzer in history and the panel was loud in its protests when it was ignored!

The rights were sold so widely I have an issue of an outback Australian standard-size paper that gave Posner and his fraud three full pages. You may recall the attention U.S.News gave it, without any checking - and that for a book without any peer reviews.

Can you recall any grosser or more successful disinformations? And the one book that documents its exposure of it has been entirely ignored.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg

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RAGANO stated that some of the allegations involving TRAFFICANTE have been ridiculous, and he related the following to illustrate TRAFFICANTE's attitude:

While driving through New Orleans in MARCELLO's car, MARCELLO was driving and TRAFFICANTE was seated in the front seat and he (RAGANO) was in the back, when a radio broadcast related events concerning District Attorney GARRISON's escapades revolving around the assassination of President KENNEDY. SANTO turned and remarked to MARCELLO, "Carlos, the next thing you know they will be blaming the President's assassination on us." RAGANO added that after his return to Tampa his office had received numerous calls from a newspaper reporter by the name of GREEN, associated with a Long Island, New York, daily. RAGANO called the reporter, who related that he had understood that when TRAFFICANTE was jailed by CASTRO in Cuba , some arrangements were made for JACK RUBY to be flown from Dallas to Cuba to expedite his release, since RUBY was friendly with CASTRO. The reporter exclaimed to RAGANO, "Don't you see the significance of this contact in connection with the Communists and La Cosa Nostra being involved in the presidential assassination?" RAGANO stated he told the reporter he was completely off base because he (RAGANO) had been involved in attempting to get TRAFFICANTE back to Florida from the Cuban prison, and that this was done through an individual in Miami who was close to CASTRO before the revolution. RAGANO said he later told this story to TRAFFICANTE, pointing out that he was not very far from wrong since he had told MARCELLO he would some day be blamed for the assassination.

c. Weapons

RAGANO indicated that TRAFFICANTE at no time carries a gun with him and that he does not even carry a pen knife.

d. TRAFFICANTE's feelings

Mr. RAGANO said that TRAFFICANTE has expressed the belief that eventually he will be the victim of a "frameup" on the part of law enforcement agencies anxious to put him in jail. He said that TRAFFICANTE leaves his car unlocked and very frequently his home unlocked and he has told him on numerous occasions that he should not do this, but TRAFFICANTE has said that if they want to get into the house or the car, whether locked or not, they can get in without any trouble.

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ENCLOSURE